

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that the Formal Drawings filed July 29, 2004 are acceptable.

Applicants thank the Examiner for withdrawing the rejections set forth in the December 1, 2004 *Office Action*.

Status of the Application

Claims 1-3, 7-11 and 13-25 are all the claims pending in the Application, as claims 18-25 are hereby added, and as claim 4 is hereby cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-4, 7-11 and 13-17 stand rejected.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claim 17 due to a typographical error, which is corrected by non-limiting amendment herein. The informalities noted by the Examiner have been corrected. Thus, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Anticipation Rejection

The Examiner has rejected: (1) claims 1-3, 7-9, 14, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Yamada et al.* (US 6,768,257; hereinafter “*Yamada*”); and (2) claims 4, 10, 11, 13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Yamada*. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 1

Applicants respectfully submit that *Yamada* fails to teach or suggest that “the first insulating film comprises a plurality of thickened portions forming insulative mask supporting layers,” where “said thickened portions preventing a metal mask, which is used in formation of

said organic EL thin film and said cathode thin film, from being in contact with a pixel portion of said transparent substrate,” as recited in independent claim 1.

Specifically, while the Examiner has alleged a correspondence between insulating film 13 of *Yamada* and the recited “insulating film,” Applicants respectfully submit that no portion of this insulating film 13 is capable of preventing a metal mask from being in contact with a pixel portion of the transparent substrate therein. Rather, as the Examiner has recognized, separate ribs 14 are provided for this purpose.

For the Examiner’s convenience, Applicants note that examples of an insulating film with a thickened portion are shown in FIGS. 5C and 5D of the instant Application.

Independent Claim 7

Applicants respectfully submit that *Yamada* fails to teach or suggest that “a plurality of insulative mask supporting layers protrude in a reverse tapered shape from the insulating film,” where “said insulative mask supporting layers preventing a metal mask which is used in formation of said organic EL thin film and said cathode thin film, from being in contact with a pixel portion of said transparent substrate,” as recited in independent claim 7.

Specifically, while the Examiner has alleged a correspondence between: (1) insulating film 13; and (2) ribs 14 of *Yamada* and the recited: (1) “insulating film;” and (2) “insulative mask supporting layer,” Applicants respectfully submit that ribs 14 do not “protrude in a reverse tapered shape from insulating film 13.

For the Examiner’s convenience, Applicants note that an example of a reversed tapered shape is shown in FIG. 5B of the instant Application.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 7 are patentable over the applied reference. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that rejected dependent claims 2, 3, 8-11 and 13-17 are allowable, *at least* by virtue of their dependency.

Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

New Claims

Claims 18-25 are hereby added. Claims 18-25 are fully supported *at least* by FIGS. 5A-5D of the instant Application. Claims 18-25 are respectfully submitted to be allowable both by virtue of their dependency, and by virtue of the features recited therein.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-3, 7-11 and 13-25 are allowable. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the application now is in condition for allowance with all of the claims 1-3, 7-11 and 13-25.

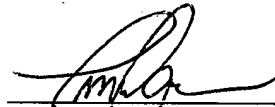
If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
US Appln No. 10/041,668

Docket No. Q67887

Please charge any fees which may be required to maintain the pendency of this application, except for the Issue Fee, to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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